

**FEBRUARY 18, 2014**

**PORT ST. JOE, FLORIDA**

**SPECIAL MEETING**

The Gulf County Board of County Commissioners met this date in special session with the following members present: Chairman Ward McDaniel, Vice Chairman Carmen L. McLemore, and Commissioners Joanna Bryan, Tynalin Smiley, and Warren J. Yeager, Jr.

Others present were: County Attorney Jeremy Novak, Clerk Rebecca L. Norris, Clerk Finance Officer Sherry Herring, Deputy Clerk Kari Summers, Chief Administrator Don Butler, Assistant Administrator Michael L. Hammond, Deputy Administrator Lynn Lanier, Deputy Administrator Brett Lowry, Building Official Lee Collinsworth, Central Services Director Denise Manuel, Emergency Management Director Marshall Nelson, E9-1-1 Coordinator Ben Guthrie, Gulf County E.M.S. Director Houston Whitfield, G.I.S. Coordinator Scott Warner, Maintenance Superintendent Steve Mork, Planner David Richardson, Public Works Director Joe Danford, Sheriff Mike Harrison, Supervisor of Elections Employee Gene McCroan, T.D.C. Executive Director Jennifer Jenkins, and Veterans' Service Officer Joe Paul.

Chairman McDaniel called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m., E.T.

**POLICY-ADMINISTRATIVE TRANSITION – EMPLOYEES / PERSONNEL**

Chief Administrator Butler discussed the administrative transition with employees and personnel, and requested the Board reaffirm their position regarding this policy. He discussed that in the past, the Board had given him the authority to hire/replace staff. Chief Administrator Butler requested the Board reaffirm what is already in place; to allow positions to be filled, and to allow pay adjustments to be signed off by Chief Administrator Butler and the Chairman. Commissioner McLemore motioned to approve this request. Commissioner Yeager seconded the motion for discussion. After discussion, Chairman McDaniel called for public comment. There being no public comment, the motion then passed 4 to 1, with Commissioner Bryan voting no.

**SHERIFF / SUPERVISOR OF ELECTION RELOCATION**

Chief Administrator Butler discussed comments made at the last Board meeting regarding the relocating of the Sheriff's Office. Commissioner Yeager discussed allowing Chief Administrator Butler, Sheriff Harrison, and Supervisor of Elections Hanlon to work on this matter and bring a recommendation to the Board. Chairman McDaniel reported that Supervisor of Elections Hanlon was unable to attend today's meeting due to health issues. Commissioner Yeager motioned not to move the Supervisor of Elections Office to the current Sheriff's Office Building. Commissioner Smiley seconded

the motion. Chairman McDaniel called for public comment. There being no public comment, the motion then passed unanimously. Commissioner Yeager motioned to allow Chief Administrator Butler, Sheriff Harrison, and Supervisor of Elections Hanlon to bring a recommendation to the Board on how to proceed with taking care of the space for both offices. Commissioner McLemore seconded the motion for discussion. After discussion, Commissioner Yeager amended his motion to include advertising for office space. Chairman McDaniel called for public comment. There being no public comment, the motion then passed unanimously. Chief Administrator Butler discussed obtaining the materials to build an evidence room for the Sheriff's Office in the back part of the Supervisor of Elections Building.

#### **BRITISH PETROLEUM LITIGATION**

County Attorney Novak reported that B.P. has rescinded their offers to the County and T.D.C. Ron Jones, of Beasley Allen Law Firm appeared before the Board to discuss the position by B.P., stating that Beasley Allen Law Firm will continue to push for a release. He stated that he will be available after this meeting to speak with the Board individually, if needed.

#### **PORT AUTHORITY LITIGATION REPORT**

County Attorney Novak discussed The Port Authority foreclosure activity, stating that Judge Fishel signed an Order in favor of Capital City Bank, and it will have a ripple effect to the County. Chairman McDaniel called for public comment. There was no public comment.

#### **STATE OF EMERGENCY PROCLAMATION**

Upon recommendation by County Attorney Novak, Commissioner McLemore motioned to ratify the Local State of Emergency that was placed on January 29, 2014, due to weather conditions. Commissioner Smiley seconded the motion. Chairman McDaniel called for public comment. There being no public comment, the motion then passed unanimously.

There being no further business, and upon motion by Commissioner McLemore, the meeting did then adjourn at 4:04 p.m., E.T.

**WARD MCDANIEL  
CHAIRMAN**

**ATTEST:**

**REBECCA L. NORRIS  
CLERK**